December 6, 2017

Doug Downie
California Department of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie:

On behalf of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), I am writing to express our strong support for the Nevada Irrigation District’s (NID) Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. Since the 1970s, glyphosate herbicide has been used for terrestrial weed management in California by water agencies to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks and other key properties. In July 2017 glyphosate was added to the California Proposition 65 list of known carcinogens.

Under its Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, NID will implement a field experiment to test viable alternatives to glyphosate, and to develop an Integrated Vegetation Management Program. This program will target specific plant species to protect and maintain critical water system infrastructure that supports communities throughout Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties.

The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition bring water resources managers together throughout the Sacramento River Basin to implement sustainability initiatives and integrated regional planning to improve both water supplies and water quality in this special region. The NID Herbicide Alternatives Research Program is a very innovative program that can help improve both water supplies and quality for NID and throughout the Sacramento River Basin.

We strongly support this important and innovative program and urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely yours,

David J. Guy
President
November 17, 2017

Doug Downie
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,

On behalf of CCOF, I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s proposal *Herbicide Alternatives Research Program.*

CCOF advances organic agriculture for a healthy world. We advocate on behalf of our members for organic policies, support the growth of organic through education and grants, and provide organic certification that is personal and accessible. We are supported by an organic family of farmers, ranchers, processors, retailers, consumers, and policymakers. Together, we work to advance organic agriculture for a healthy world.

Developing alternatives to herbicides in ditch management is extremely important to our certified organic farmers and ranchers. They go to great lengths to manage their landscapes using cultural controls such as mowing, grazing, and cultivating, only to have the ditches and berms adjacent to their farms treated with herbicides that are not allowed in certified organic production.

We are gratified to learn that the Nevada Irrigation District has started to investigate alternative strategies to manage vegetation. The Nevada Irrigation District will put DPR funds to good use in conducting a systematic study of weed management practices that are compatible with certified organic production.

In addition, this project has potential to help other irrigation districts, public agencies, farmers, ranchers, and landscape managers across the West adopt the weed management alternatives that the Nevada Irrigation District finds most effective.

CCOF places its full support behind the Nevada Irrigation District’s proposal. We urge DPR to fund this pathbreaking project.

Sincerely,

Cathy Calfo
Executive Director/CEO
11/9/2017

Doug Downie
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,

On behalf of Nevada County Farm Bureau, I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. Since the 1970s, glyphosate herbicide has been used for terrestrial weed management in California by irrigation districts to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks and other key properties. In July 2017 glyphosate was added to the California Proposition 65 list of known carcinogens.

This year, under their Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) embarked on a process to develop non-toxic alternative strategies to vegetation management, and to field test these methods. In combination with opportunities and challenges related to organic agriculture, the broad range of landscapes within NID’s service area provides a unique opportunity for this experimental project. The project will result in the development of best practices that are both replicable and broadly applicable to other water districts, agencies, and land managers throughout California.

The mission of Nevada County Farm Bureau is to work for the solution of the problems of the farm, the farm home, and the rural community, by the use of the recognized advantages of organized action, to the end that those engaged in the various branches of agriculture may have opportunity for happiness and prosperity in their chosen work. Thus, the outcomes of this project will be of interest to us.

We urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Debora Totoonchie, Manager, Nevada County Farm Bureau
Nevada County Farm Bureau
PO BOX 27
Grass Valley CA 95945
November 13, 2017

Doug Downie  
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,

As the Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner, I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. As you may know, many Irrigation Districts routinely rely on herbicides for terrestrial weed management in California to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks, and other key properties. The use of herbicides is a sensitive issue that many agencies have been dealing with.

This year, under their Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) embarked on a process to develop non-toxic alternative strategies to vegetation management, and to field test these methods. In combination with opportunities and challenges related to organic agriculture, the broad range of landscapes within NID’s service area provides a unique opportunity for this experimental project. The project will result in the development of best practices that possibly could be used by other water districts, agencies, and land managers in their own vegetation management program.

As Nevada County’s Agricultural Commissioner, I serve as the primary local enforcement agent for state agricultural laws and regulations including control of noxious and invasive weeds, having an additional science based tool for vegetation management will be of interest to me as well as the rest of California.

I urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Chris de Nijs, Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner
November 14, 2017

Doug Downie
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,

As Placer County’s Agricultural Commissioner, I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. Since the 1970s, glyphosate herbicide has been used for terrestrial weed management in California by irrigation districts to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks and other key properties. In July 2017 glyphosate was added to the California Proposition 65 list of known carcinogens.

This year, under their Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, for which I serve as an advisor, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) embarked on a process to develop non-toxic alternative strategies to vegetation management, and to field test these methods. In combination with opportunities and challenges related to organic agriculture, the broad range of landscapes within NID’s service area provides a unique opportunity for this experimental project. The project will result in the development of best practices that are both replicable and broadly applicable to other water districts, agencies, and land managers throughout California.

As Placer County’s Agricultural Commissioner, I serve as the primary local enforcement agent for state agricultural laws and regulations. Agriculture has always played an important part in Placer County’s economic success and colorful history. Since glyphosate is so widely used, and its future is uncertain due to its Proposition 65 listing, the outcomes of this project will be of interest to me and the rest of the county.

I urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Joshua Huntsinger, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner
Doug Downie  
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,
Sierra Harvest is a non-profit organization that serves hundreds of farmers in ranchers in Nevada County, through farmer training, advocacy, community building and education. I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. Since the 1970s, glyphosate herbicide has been used for terrestrial weed management in California by irrigation districts to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks and other key properties. In July 2017 glyphosate was added to the California Proposition 65 list of known carcinogens.

This year, under their Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) embarked on a process to develop non-toxic alternative strategies to vegetation management, and to field test these methods.

NID is uniquely poised to conduct this research because of its hundreds of miles of open irrigation ditches that serve our community and the quality of expertise available to them to implement alternative strategies to weed management.

Pesticide use on the banks and in the water of NID ditches has long been a great concern of the ranchers and organic farmers we work with. Having inorganic herbicides and algacides enter the waterways jeopardizes the organic certification of farms and renders water unsafe for animals. We are thrilled that the research is being done to find an alternative that is cost effective and does the job. It will be a huge benefit for our farming and ranching community as well as for the fish and wildlife in our area if an alternative is found and implemented.

In order to do this good work. NID will need funding to supplement the costs of doing the research to get to methods that work. This doesn’t happen overnight. If they succeed, it will save time and effort and serve as a model for other water districts across the state. We urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Malaika Bishop, Co-director Sierra Harvest
November 15, 2017

Doug Downie
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,

I am the General Manager of BriarPatch Natural Foods Cooperative. I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. Since the 1970s, glyphosate herbicide has been used for terrestrial weed management in California by irrigation districts to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks and other key properties. In July 2017 glyphosate was added to the California Proposition 65 list of known carcinogens.

This year, under their Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) embarked on a process to develop non-toxic alternative strategies to vegetation management, and to field test these methods. In combination with opportunities and challenges related to organic agriculture, the broad range of landscapes within NID’s service area provides a unique opportunity for this experimental project. The project will result in the development of best practices that are both replicable and broadly applicable to other water districts, agencies, and land managers throughout California.

Part of our mission as a locally owned cooperative food store is to work with our area farmers toward our mutual success. We purchase approximately $1.2 million in local, organic produce annually. Our 7,500 owners are very committed to maintaining the integrity of our healthy food supply and many have expressed concern about the use of acknowledged carcinogen in our irrigation supply. We enthusiastically support this project and applaud the people who have initiated it.

We urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to put their full weight behind this important work.

Sincerely,

Chris Maher, General Manager
November 7, 2017  
FINE WINES & WINE GRAPES  
Certified Organic Wines - No Sulfites Added  

Doug Downie  
California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Downie,

On behalf of LaRocca Vineyards, I am writing in support of the Nevada Irrigation District’s Herbicide Alternatives Research Program. Since the 1970s, glyphosate herbicide has been used for terrestrial weed management in California by irrigation districts to control unwanted vegetation on roads, canal banks and other key properties. In July 2017 glyphosate was added to the California Proposition 65 list of known carcinogens.

This year, under their Herbicide Alternatives Research Program, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) embarked on a process to develop non-toxic alternative strategies to vegetation management, and to field test these methods. In combination with opportunities and challenges related to organic agriculture, the broad range of landscapes within NID’s service area provides a unique opportunity for this experimental project. The project will result in the development of best practices that are both replicable and broadly applicable to other water districts, agencies, and land managers throughout California.

The mission of LaRocca Vineyards is promote, grow and supply healthy organic and safe products for the better of the environment, the people, and the world. Thus, the outcomes of this project will be of interest to us.

We urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation to support this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Philip LaRocca  
Owner/Winemaker/Master Organic Farmer